

Gina Mouser

From: Vernon Crawford [vacrawford@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2007 10:03 AM
To: Connie Scotchel; Ann Killets; Nat Harrington; Kristin Workman; Mary Vreeland; Gerald Williams; Darron Davis; Janice Cover; Fran Giblin; Bill Graham; Joseph Moore; Liz Perlman; Sandra Richmond; Walter Pierce; Joseph Sanches; Mike Burke; Brenda Magee; Joyce Beninati; Nancy Engelhardt; Carol Keller; Kay Scott; Alison Adler; Wanda Morelli; Pat Griffith O'Connell; Constance Tuman-Rugg; Ron LaFace; Judee A. Cabrera; Debra Floyd; Kristin Garrison
Subject: Fw: NSBA Funding Update - FY 08 Appropriations Bill Passes Out of Committee

Nancy Engelhardt (Alcalde and Fay) and I just spent the last two days urging our congressional delegation to support these issues and we received very positive assurances, both House and Senate. I had a chance to meet with Melissa and NSBA staff directly as well as with Jeff Simering and Manish Naik (CGCS) and Bruce Hunter of AASA.

We spent a good deal of time related to ESEA reauthorization focusing on 1) moving more toward a learning gains model and giving credit to some extent for significant growth within quartiles, 2) allowing districts to be SES providers, 3) allowing restructuring to focus on specific issues within a school rather than the broad brush it currently is, clarifying the distinction between highly qualified teachers and high performing teachers, 4) allowing greater time for English proficiency before LEP students are tested in English on content and skills, and restricting choice to those students not meeting standards rather than all students in a school not making AYP. These are consistent with the NSBA resolution passed by the Board two weeks ago and our January, 2007 Legislative recommendations.

Let me know if you have any questions...Vern

----- Original Message -----

From: Melissa Harden

To: vacrawford@msn.com

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2007 9:38 AM

Subject: NSBA Funding Update - FY 08 Appropriations Bill Passes Out of Committee

NSBA Funding Update - FY 08 Appropriations Bill Passes Out of Committee

Many thanks to our grassroots advocates who contacted their House Appropriations Committee members to build support for the IDEA amendment. The Walsh Amendment, sponsored by Rep. James Walsh (R-NY), was passed unanimously by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote. Essentially, the amendment will add \$335,000,000 to Part B grants. The total increase proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for IDEA in FY08 is \$509.5 million (from the current funding level of \$10.78 billion).

The Walsh amendment is a stronger step toward providing the level of funding that is actually needed for IDEA. NSBA thanks Reps. Walsh and Obey for their efforts to provide a larger IDEA increase for FY08. They consulted with respective school districts about the lack of federal funding for special education and its impact on school budgets / local governments. NSBA will continue to push for adequate funding increases for IDEA as the appropriations process moves forward. Likewise, we support the Walsh amendment and overall efforts to ensure a larger funding increase for IDEA in a final spending bill.

The bill overall provides a \$1.9 billion increase for Title I which is a positive step towards fully funding NCLB.

Next Steps / Requested Action: The FY2008 Labor-Heath & Human Services-Education spending bill is tentatively scheduled for floor consideration in the House next Tuesday, July 18. Please contact your representatives to urge their vote in favor of the overall bill as well as additional amendments to increase funding for IDEA.

Please stay tuned for further calls to action and updates...